

For Immediate Release

Contact: Paul Wagner/Tiffany van Gorder

Phone: 707.255.7667

Email: pwagner@balzac.com , tvangorder@balzac.com

Website: www.lemistralvineyard.com

Le Mistral Returns to its Roots

Grape growers for Joseph Phelps' "Le Mistral" will now produce and bottle the wine

Monterey, CA (June 18, 2008) – Joseph Phelps Vineyards has announced that as of the 2007 vintage, Le Mistral wines will be produced and bottled in Monterey by the Le Mistral Vineyard, whose owners have grown the grapes for the highly acclaimed wine for the past eleven years in Monterey County. Phelps winemakers Ashley Hepworth and Damian Parker continue to consult on Le Mistral and the wine will still be available to Phelps Preferred Club members.

“This is a great day for lovers of Le Mistral,” says Randy Pura, whose team has grown the grapes for Le Mistral for over a decade, and who owns and operates Ventana Vineyards. “We love this wine and we love what Joseph Phelps has done with it, and now it is time for the wine to come home to its roots here in Monterey. With the Phelps team as winemaking consultants, the only change we expect to make is that the grapes will travel minutes instead of hours from the vineyard to the winery.”

“This makes all the sense in the world,” says Bill Phelps, Chairman of Joseph Phelps Vineyards. “Great wines are made in the vineyard and the Le Mistral Vineyard team has a tremendous track record of growing quality fruit. The wine has been a benchmark for Rhone varietals grown in California, and we are committed to maintaining that standard.”

No changes are planned in the distribution of the wine, neither through the current distributor network nor through the wine club for Joseph Phelps Vineyards. “Our first priority is to make sure that the existing customers of Le Mistral continue to get their fair share of this wonderful wine,” says Pura, “and we look forward to introducing it to our club members at Ventana Vineyards as well.”

Ventana Vineyards is the “Most Award-Winning Vineyard in America.” Located in the Salinas Valley, Arroyo Seco AVA in Monterey County, Ventana Vineyards is owned by a small group of growers who have lived and worked in this region for generations. For more information on Ventana Vineyards, call 831-372-7415 or go to www.ventanavineyards.com.

Founded in 1972, the winery and home vineyards of Joseph Phelps are located in Spring Valley near St. Helena, on a 600-acre ranch that is characterized by rolling hills, California native oaks, and 100 acres of vines. Annual production at Phelps totals around 65,000 cases, which includes Insignia (the first Bordeaux-style blend produced in California under a proprietary label), Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, and two Rhone-style wines, Syrah and Viognier.

###